

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 2615

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, NATO

SUBJECT: GREECE AND NATO

REFS: (A) USNATO 1797; (B) STATE 073844

1. DURING A CONVERSATION I HAD THIS MORNING ON ANOTHER MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, JOHN TZOUNIS, OUR CONVERSATION FLOWED QUITE NATURALLY AT ONE POINT INTO A DISCUSSION OF GREECE AND NATO. WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SECOND ROUND OF U.S.-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS THAT WILL COMMENCE IN ATHENS ON APRIL 7.

2. AT ONE POINT TZOUNIS REFERRED TO THE CONVERSATION EARLIER THIS WEEK BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GREEK REPRESENTATIVES IN NATO (REF. A) AND TZOUNIS SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED THE TEXT OF THE TALKING POINTS THAT PEREZ HAD LEFT WITH THEODOROPOULOS. WE CONTINUED A BRIEF DISCUSSION AND I DREW ON THOSE TALKING POINTS (PARA. 4, REF B) FOR MY COMMENTS.

3. TZOUNIS SAID THAT HE WAS SENDING AN INSTRUCTION BACK TO THEODOROPOULOS TO UNDERTAKE A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH CERTAIN SELECTED KEY NATO COLLEAGUES. TZOUNIS MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE BRITISH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN. TZOUNIS SAID THAT THEODOROPOULOS WOULD PROBABLY WAIT FOR THE RETURN OF THE BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE, WHO REPORTEDLY IS TEMPORARILY ABSENT,

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AND INITIATE HIS GENERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH HIM BEFORE PRO-

CEEDING TO THE OTHERS HE MENTIONED, INASMUCH AS THE BELGIAN
WAS THE "DEAN" OF THE GROUP.

4 TZOUNIS ADDED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT REALIZES THAT
SOME OF THE ISSUES ARE EXTREMELY COMPLICATED AND THE GOG
UNDERSTANDS FULLY THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MANY OF
THE QUESTIONS INVOLVING NATO AND THOSE RELATING TO
BILATERAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GREECE.
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